

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 EB-11 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-10 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 SS-20 SPC-03 L-03 H-03 AID-20

AGR-20 DODE-00 /160 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:RHMUNN:AG

APPROVED BY S/NM:WJHANDLEY

OMB:LHERMAN (SUBS)

NEA/INS:JHAWES (DRAFT)

EB/ICD/SIM:DMEYER (INFO)

IO/HDC:ENOZIGLIA (DRAFT)

DEA:DMILLER (INFORMED)

NEA/RA:TGRANT (DRAFT)

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R 172016Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205862

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN OPIUM PROSPECTS

REF: NEW DELHI 11964

1. WE FOUND MALLINKRODT REPS REPORT ON DISCUSSIONS IN
INDIA MOST INTERESTING, AND ARE REPEATING IT TO ANKARA
AND GENEVA.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD IN ALL APPROPRIATE CONTEXTS CONVEY TO
GOI CONTINUING USG INTEREST IN SEEING THAT U.S. FIRMS
RECEIVE FAIR AND PROPORTIONATE ALLOCATIONS FROM INDIAN
OPIUM PRODUCTION.

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3. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT INTEND TO TAKE LEAD IN URGING INDIAN EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION, THE REPORT REFLECTS UNDULY NEGATIVE IMPRESSION OF USG POSITION. EVIDENCE OF DIVERSION IS WORRISOME. WE CONTINUE TO HOPE FOR STRENGTHENED CONTROLS, AND TRUST INCB WILL KEEP THIS ISSUE WELL IN FOREFRONT OF INDIAN THINKING, BUT WE DO NOT CONSIDER THIS A BASIS FOR BLANKET OPPOSITION TO INCREASED PRODUCTION. OUR BASIC POSITION IS THAT, WHILE WE HOPE LICIT PRODUCTION CAN BE LIMITED AND CAREFULLY CONTROLLED, WE ARE FULLY PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE DETERMINATION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, ACTING THROUGH ESTABLISHED MACHINERY, OF A LEVEL OF OPIUM PRODUCTION ADEQUATE TO MEET THE WORLD'S LEGITIMATE MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS.

4. REF PARA 4 INQUIRY ON POPPY STRAW PROCESSING, USG HAS NO OBJECTION TO U.S. FIRM SEEKING TO ESTABLISH SUCH A PLANT IN INDIA AS A PURELY COMMERCIAL VENTURE. WE SEE FULL UTILIZATION OF POPPY STRAW AS A PARTIAL ALTERNATIVE TO INCREASED POPPY CULTIVATION FOR OPIUM PRODUCTION AND WOULD HOPE THAT SOME US FIRM MIGHT FIND IT ATTRACTIVE TO EXPLORE THESE POSSIBILITIES. KISSINGER

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